

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

In the March 3, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-20 and 22 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended herein. Thus, claims 1-20 and 22 remain pending for consideration, which is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Specification

On page 2, the Office Action objected to the Specification for failing to allegedly disclose a computer-readable medium storing a control program which is claimed in claims 17-18. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Figure 2-8 of the Specification which describe program module constructions. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that program module would necessarily be stored on some sort of computer readable medium, and thus, Applicants assert that claims 17 and 18 are supported by the Specification. (see also Specification last paragraph). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

On page 3, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The terms "said apparatus" and "a financial transaction operation" in claims 1, 9 and 17 as pointed out by the Examiner, have been amended to recite "said automatic transaction apparatus" and "said financial transaction operation" respectively for purposes of clarification. In addition, claim 20 has been amended to now depend from claim 9 (method type claim).

In view of the above, Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn for claims 1-20.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

On page 4 claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 7,024,668 to Shiomi et al. (hereinafter Shiomi). On page 8, claims 4, 5, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiomi et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0131082 A1 to Evans et al. (hereinafter Evans). On page 9, claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Shiomi et al. in view of what the Examiner refers to as Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

On page 10, the Office Action in response to Applicants arguments filed on November 29, 2007, stated that the "financial" limitation is allegedly not structurally involved in the elements of the apparatus, and thus, deemed nonfunctional descriptive material. Thus, in view of the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9 and 17 herein to further emphasize I/O units performing financial transaction operations. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

wherein said plurality of I/O units performing said financial transaction operation, comprises:
a customer operation unit...
a cash processing unit... and
a card reader and writer
wherein **said I/O control layer converts said first common signals specific to said middleware layer by using said parameter file for instructing an operation** of said customer operation unit, said cash processing unit and said card reader and writer

(emphasis added, last 9 lines).

Shiomi relates to a computer system including a kernel and library unit and various middleware and application units (see col. 14, lines 12-20). The system in Shiomi does not describe nor contemplate financial transaction operations. Accordingly, nothing in Shiomi describes a "financial transaction operation" let alone an operation that comprises "a customer operation unit... a cash processing unit... and card reader and writer" as recited by claim 1. In addition, the Office Action broadly interprets an "automatic transaction apparatus" and a "transaction signal," asserting that Shiomi, at column 7, lines 39-44, and element 11 of Fig. 15 discusses the same. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion, because Shiomi, at column 7, lines 39-44 merely discusses:

The application inputting unit 11 is made up of a floppy disk drive, a CD drive, a network interface board, a broadcast receiver, or the like. The application inputting unit 11 receives applications to be executed, and stores the applications into the application storing unit 12.

In other words, element 11 of Figure 15 of Shiomi merely discusses a computer system and a control signal. Applicants submit that the signals allegedly disclosed in Shiomi do not relate to, nor instruct components of the financial transaction operation as described in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Shiomi fails to describe "said I/O control layer converts said first common signals **specific to said middleware layer by using said**

parameter file for instructing an operation of said customer operation unit, said cash processing unit and said card reader and writer” as recited by claim 1.

Evans merely relates to a middleware adapter responsible for communicating a message-oriented middleware message between an application program and a middleware transport layer. AAPA merely discusses a web ATM having a browser to communicate with a remote host. Thus, Applicants submit that Evans and AAPA fail to cure the deficiencies of Shiomi described above.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above. In addition, Applicants submit that the above discussion will aid the Examiner in appreciating the patentable distinctions of independent claims 9 and 17 which emphasize somewhat similar features of potentially varying scope and breadth.

Independent claim 22 recites “**a plurality of I/O units performing different financial transaction operations** designated by first common transaction control signals which are common to each of the plurality of I/O units,” and therefore, patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

The remaining dependent claims inherit the patentable recitations of their respective base claims, and therefore, patentably distinguish over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in addition to the additional features recited therein.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

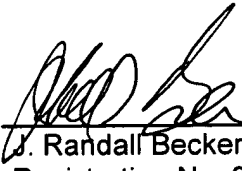
Serial No. 10/830,150

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9/3/8

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